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NEWS

New zoning advisory committee formed

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

October 21, 2023 . 2:10 PM — 1 min read

This week the Planning Board chose members for the newly formed Zoning Review Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board. The group will advise on how to comply with the MBTA multi-family housing rule.

According to Town Planner Taylor Hermann, the ZRAC will assist with the board's work on two key projects: Creating updated and new zoning for the GBD-3 zone (northern Main Street from Swanton Street to the Winchester Town Line) and for the GBD-2 zone (northern Main Street from Skillings Road to Swanton Street), as well as creating new zoning to establish Multi-Family Overlay Districts to comply with the State's MBTA Communities Multi-Family Housing requirements.

The board accepted as members Hank Lin, John Leavitt, Lance Grenzeback, Marilyn Gagalis, Soumya Ganapathy, Steven Cagnetta, Tommy Bellaire, and Wenji Ma. A member from the Historical Commission and from the Design Review Committee will also be appointed.

Hermann said there would be meetings approximately every thr
to which the public is invited, including on Oct. 24, Nov. 2, Nov. 21, Dec. 12,

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with others possible during the next few months.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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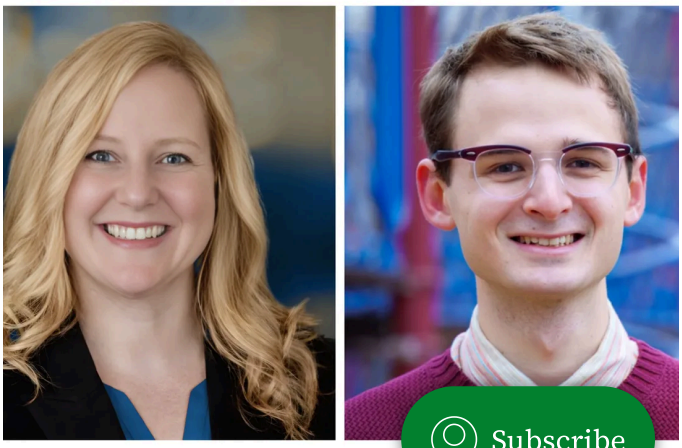

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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